implementable action plan, the Government has set up a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan.

(b) and (c) The Government announced on 18th June, 2004 a package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in a period of three years commencing from 2004-05 over the amount disbursed during the year 2003-04. The target and achievement of agricultural credit flow during 2004-05 and 2005-06 (April-December) is furnished below:-

(Rs. Crore)

Year	Target	Achievement
2004-05	105,000	125,309
2005-06	141,000	119,115
		(April-December 2005)

The target for the credit flow to agriculture and allied sector has been fixed at Rs. 175,000 crore during 2006-07.

Registration of Banking Codes and Standards Board of India

2303. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken measures to register the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) as an independent society, which will draw membership from banks and conduct field visits of banks; and

(b) if so, the details as to how the BSCBI propose to function and the positive effects it will have on customer service in banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Banking Codes and Standards of India (BCSBI) has been registered as a Society on 20th February, 2006. The banks and Indian Banks' Association, together would draw up the voluntary codes in general terms with respect to each bank. The codes will be followed by detailed rules, in respect of each of the codes. The banks will then register themselves as members with the Board under formal covenant, which would serve as a registration document. The Relationship Manager of the Board would provide feedback for the assessment of adherence by banks to the codes and standards through specific formats. In cases where there are serious concerns, the Board

could also take the assistance of tarms of auditors. After a thorough assessment ano on being satisfied of the deviations of the members from the codes and standards, the Board would take a final view after giving an opportunity to the concerned bank. The Board will be an organization, established to evaluate and oversee observance of a code of conduct by banks so that there is healthy and virtuous pressure on the banks to provide good customer service on par with best practices. This Board will work in the best interests of the entire banking system and the common person, as customer.

Income tax rebate to patients

†2304. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients suffering from Thalessemia and some other diseases are given some rebate in income tax under Income Tax Act; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section 80DDB of the Income-tax Act, 1961 provides for a deduction from income up to Rs. 40,000/- (Rs. 60,000/- in the case of senior citizens) to an individual or Hindu undivided family for the treatment of Thalessemia and certain other specified diseases.

The other specified diseases are:—

- Dementia
- Dystonia Musculorum Deformans
- Ataxia
- Chorea
- Hemiballismus
- Aphasia
- Parkinsons Disease
- Malignant cancers
- Full Blown Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- Chronic Renal failure
- Hemophilia.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.